

## Centennial Clock 1840-1940 – Upper Hutt

In February 1939 the Upper Hutt Borough Council proposed the purchase of a memorial clock to commemorate New Zealand's centennial. The council approached the Postmaster General for permission to place the clock on the Upper Hutt Post Office building situated on the corner of Main Street and the south side of Station Street (now known as Geange).

In November 1939 the Borough Council made application to the government for subsidies to be made in respect of the following items Town Clock £30, Motor Camp £150 Rest Room and Library £300 and Swimming Baths £500.

Upper Hutt Borough Council - Upper Hutt 16<sup>th</sup> April 1940

The Secretary  
National Centennial Office  
Department of Internal Affairs  
Wellington

Dear Sir

### CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL

It appears that a slight misunderstanding arose when the previous application of my Council for a Centennial Memorial subsidy was submitted to the Provincial Council, evidently through the information supplied being insufficiently specific.

My Council, therefore, has requested me to renew its application for a memorial subsidy on the proposals detailed hereafter and aggregating a cost of approximately £4410.

### LOCAL MEMORIAL – TOWN CLOCK

This proposal is to erect a town clock as a local memorial at a cost of approximately £160. The clock is to be imported through Messrs Littlejohn & Son, and in consequence, war time costs may advance the price a little above that stated.

The following are the particulars:-

Gent's Pulsnetic Impulse two-faced Bracket Clock together with Master clock, trickle charger and accumulators.

Diameter of dials 36 inches.

### UPPER HUTT DISTRICT MEMORIAL

This proposal constitutes a district memorial to be placed in Maidstone Park – an area of some 15 acres – which has recently been purchased by my Council.

The memorial for which, is the cost is to take the form of an up to date motor camp and includes the setting out of grounds, a camp pavilion and a swimming bath.

### “UPPER HUTT DISTRICT CENTENNIAL PARK”

The whole enclosure will be available not only for all residents of this District for all time, but also for the thousands of visitors who frequent it, hence it is felt by my Council to be a most desirable site for a District Centennial Memorial, and one that is believed will merit the fullest support of the Memorial Executive Committee.

My Council would greatly appreciate your favourable consideration of this application for a subsidy on the proposals outlined and will undertake to submit for your approval the fullest details on the undertaking.

Yours faithfully R M Wilmshurst Town Clerk

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington agency ACGO 8333 IA1 2023/ 62/10/263 Centennial Records Memorials IMG\_1798-99)*

Upper Hutt Borough Council Upper Hutt  
28<sup>th</sup> April 1941  
The General Secretary  
Department of Internal Affairs  
Centennial Branch  
Government Buildings Wellington

Dear Sir  
**CENTENNIAL MEMORIALS**

The Following resolutions relating to the local Centennial Memorial (Clock) was passed by my Council at its meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1941

*“That the sum of £120 be placed on the 1941/42 Estimates being the Council’s contribution to the Upper Hutt Centennial Memorial Clock”.*

I hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and correct copy.

(Signed) J Bleman Mayor

Attached thereto are applications for subsidy in respect of local memorial and Upper Hutt District Memorial.

The Upper Hutt District Memorial (Motor Camp Pavilion) is being officially opened on Saturday 03<sup>rd</sup> May 1941 at 3 pm and a cordial invitation is extended to yourself and any members of your staff.

Advice has just been received from Messrs Littlejohn and Son that the clock should arrive any day. The landed price is £152 to which the cost of installation will have to be added

Yours faithfully (Signed) R M Wilmshurst Town Clerk

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington agency ACGO 8333 IA1 2023/ 62/10/263 Centennial Records Memorials IMG\_1800.jpg)

### Clock Catalogue



(Archives NZ Wellington ACGO 8333 IA1 2023/ 62/10/263 Centennial Records & Memorials Upper Hutt saved as IMG\_1797)

The authorities were unable to place in clock on the Upper Hutt Borough Council building due to the eaves of the building being too low.

*(Reference Upper Hutt Leader newspaper collection website Upper Hutt Leader 19 June 1941)*

At last the town clock looks to be coming out its case as according to the letter received by the Council the Postal Department has agreed that it be erected outside the Post Office at Upper Hutt.

*(Reference Upper Hutt Leader Newspaper collection newspaper 09 December 1943)*

What has happened to the Town Clock? That on enquiries we find the position is that the Clock will be erected on the Bank of Australasia building as soon as the OK is confirmed.

*(Reference Upper Hutt Leader newspaper collection website newspaper 31 August 1944)*

That at long last the public subscribed Town Clock is being erected. That this Clock has been laying in the Council Office for a couple of years, and it's good to see that a start has been made to erect it. That thanks to the Bank of Australasia the Clock has found a home at last.

*(Reference Upper Hutt Leader newspaper collection newspaper 14 December 1944)*

### The Centennial Clock on Bank Building



*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Recollect website Main Street south side Reville Jackson P2-745-1816)*

The application to purchase the Centennial Clock began in 1939. Five years later in 1944 the clock was eventually place on the Bank of Australasian building.

At the end of this document is a brief transcription of the correspondence between the Upper Hutt Borough Council and the Centennial Branch of the Departments of Internal Affairs.

### 1946-1951 Main Street Upper Hutt – Centennial Clock



(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Recollect website Main Street circa 1946-1951 Murray Max collection ATL1/2/-047856-G)

### 1848 Bank of Australasia – Centennial Clock



(Reference Upper Hutt City Council Recollect website Main Street Upper Hutt Jan 1848 Bank P3-396-1571)



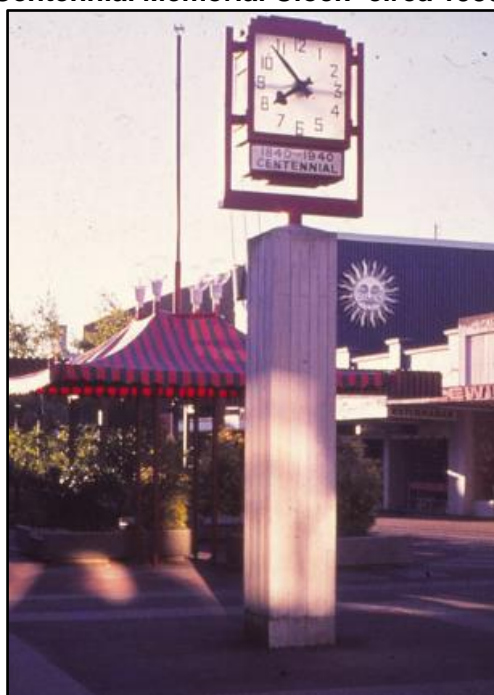
### 1951 Australia and New Zealand Bank Limited – Centennial Clock



*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Recollect Website Australian and New Zealand Bank P1-3168-5558)*

The Australia and New Zealand Bank Limited was once on the corner of Main Street and north Station Street (later renamed Geange Street). The bank moved in 1977 and the building was demolished around 1978. When the bank was demolished the clock was removed and stored.

### Centennial Memorial Clock -circa 1980s



*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Recollect website Main Street pedestrian precinct Clock 63/11 UHCC collection)*

A new pedestrian precinct was established in the Main Street between Station Street (renamed Geange Street) and Russell Street. The Centennial Clock was mounted on a column in the middle of the precinct.

On the 30 November 1982 a Leader newspaper article included a picture of the clock being lifted off the column for repairs. The Centennial Clock had lost its hands on one side and the timing had become erratic.

The Main Street pedestrian precinct was eventually demolished and the Main Street was opened up to traffic again. All trace of the Centennial Clock was lost it just disappeared.

*Question* - Do you know what happened to the 1840-1940 Centennial Clock?

## Miscellaneous information

### Centennial Memorials 1840-1940

Various letters of application regarding Upper Hutt Public Clock & Camp Pavilion between the Upper Hutt Borough Council and Centennial Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs and other interested parties

- 30 November 1939 = Letter Memorial application have been approved by Wellington Provincial Council and are recommended for approval by National Council - Upper Hutt Camp Pavilion £1250 – plans and specification
- 11 December 1939 = Letter acknowledge receipt of letter 30 November 1939
- 16 February 1940 = Letter Centennial Memorial Upper Hutt approved by Provincial Centennial Council
- 17 January 1940 = Letter recommend approval
- 23 February 1940 = Memo as request of plan returned to Town Clerk Upper Hutt 23 February 1940
- 07 March 1940 = Letter inspection of plan forwarded
- 18 March 1940 = Letter from Architect
- 20 March 1940 = Letter Architect inspected plan
- 13 March 1940 = Letter plan returned to Town Clerk
- 28 March 1940 = Public Clock Centennial Memorial confirming verbal conversation between Town Clerk and National Centennial Council
- 05 April 1940 = Letter identifying Motor Camp Pavilion as a Centennial Memorial
- 16 April 1940 = Letter local memorial Town Clock & Upper Hutt District Memorial to be placed in Maidstone Park, covering motor camp, camp grounds, camp pavilion and swimming baths
- 22 April 1940 = Memo erection of a Town Clock in the Post Office building as Centennial memorial
- 22 April 1940 = Letter requesting approval of clock proposal submitted by Upper Hutt Centennial Committee
- 08 May 1940 = Letter formal approval for Town Clock
- 03 July 1940 = Letter regarding one Memorial one District application
- 23 July 1940 = Letter re clock subscribed and ordered requesting subsidy from Centennial Branch Department of Internal Affairs
- 31 July 1940 = Letter project approved subsidy £1 for £3
- Brochure showing the purchased Upper Hutt Memorial Clock FIG C304 and various other clocks
- 28 April 1941 = Letter from Upper Hutt Borough Council to Centennial Branch Department of Internal Affairs regarding memorial clock which should arrive any day & The Upper Hutt District Memorial (Motor Camp) is being officially opened on Saturday 03<sup>rd</sup> May 1941 at 3 pm

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington agency ACGO 8333 IA1 2023/ 62/10/263 Centennial Records – Centennial Memorials – Upper Hutt)*